United Nations A/AC.105/C.1/L.344/Add.1

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
6 February 2015

Original: English

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-second session
Vienna, 2-13 February 2015

Draft report

[...]. Space weather

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/85, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 10, "Space weather".

2. The representatives of Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and the United States made statements under agenda item 10. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States.

3. The Subcommittee heard the following scientific and technical presentations:

(a) "Space weather monitoring in Russia: current status and prospects for further development", by the representative of the Russian Federation;

(b) "Recent activities of NICT space weather research and operation", by the representative of Japan;

(c) "Space weather services in China", by the representative of China;

(d) "Variability of the Sun and its Terrestrial Impact (VarSITI) — SCOSTEP's New Scientific Programme" and "SCOSTEP capacity-building activities that enhance space weather understanding", by the observers for the Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP).

4. The Subcommittee noted that space weather was of concern to all nations and that joint international efforts were required in monitoring, research, the improvement of modelling capabilities for forecasting and developing and delivering real-time services for space weather, all of which were indispensable for predicting and mitigating the negative effects of space weather on space-based and ground-based technological infrastructure and human lives.

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5. The Subcommittee took note of the progress made to advance space weather capabilities at the national level, such as developing national space weather programmes and the inclusion of space weather in the national preparedness plans; at the regional level, such as within the space situational awareness programme of ESA and the Asia-Oceania Space Weather Alliance (AOSWA); and at the international level, including the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)/International Living With a Star (ILWS) space weather road map, the efforts of WMO to expand its role in space weather information and services and the plans of ICAO to form an export group with a view to developing provisions for space weather information for international air navigation. In this regard, the Subcommittee encouraged States members of the Committee and national and international organizations to further their cooperation towards achieving a global capability to monitor space weather events from space and the ground, share data to better forecast and mitigate the impacts of space weather on Earth and the space environment.

6. The Subcommittee expressed appreciation for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, its Basic Space Science Initiative, under which space weather activities are conducted, and the International Space Weather Initiative, which contributed to observation and the development of space weather activities through the worldwide deployment of instrument arrays and the sharing of the observed data among research efforts worldwide. In that regard, the Subcommittee also noted the forthcoming United Nations/Japan Workshop on Space Weather, to be held in Fukuoka, Japan from 2 to 6 March 2015.

7. The Subcommittee welcomed with appreciation the workshop entitled "Space weather services to build global resilience", organized by the United States on the margins of the Subcommittee's fifty-second session, which provided an overview of some of the broad and diverse space weather activities and services currently being undertaken in member States and related national and international organizations, and addressed some of the key issues of maintaining the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

8. The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that on the margins of its fifty-second session, the Expert Group on Space Weather, whose establishment was endorsed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, had met under the leadership of Canada, to define its programme of work, drawing on the best practices of the work of expert group C on space weather of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

9. The Expert Group on Space Weather submitted its proposed mandate, workplan and the report on its first meeting to the Subcommittee at its fifty-second session (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.27).

10. In its report on the first meeting, presented by the rapporteur of the Expert Group on Space Weather, the Group reiterated the importance of continuing and expanding space weather monitoring and of developing more advanced space weather models and forecasts, and expressed a desire for increased communication, coordination and capacity-building to meet the needs of the global space weather endeavour. In that regard, discussions at the first meeting of the Expert Group included proposals that the Group could: (a) review the content, structure and

organization of ongoing efforts in the field of space weather; (b) identify where additional coordination might be required or be appropriate and/or identify opportunities and areas for additional contributions by member States, international intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations; (c) propose steps to enhance space weather coordination with specialized bodies, including United Nations agencies (such as WMO and ICAO, among others), and facilitate collaboration with other space weather initiatives; (d) promote the importance and scope of the impacts of space weather on technology infrastructure, and (e) encourage the completion of studies on the impacts of space weather and the socioeconomic effects in Member States.

11. In view of the increased importance of communication between space weather stakeholder entities, the Expert Group also discussed the value of potential workshops and sharing of information between member States in relation to space weather, possibly including a dedicated web-based resource. Significant importance was also attached to the completion of space weather impact studies, and it was notated that the work completed by, for example, the United Kingdom had demonstrated the value of highlighting the important impacts of space weather and taking steps to mitigate their damaging effects.

12. The Expert Group was also informed that WMO had developed a four-year plan for space weather coordination activities aiming to enable, improve and deliver operational space weather services, in particular in response to ICAO requirements for space weather services for air navigation. The Group encouraged that initiative, which was expected to make an important contribution to the objectives of the Expert Group. Consistent with the conclusions of the expert group C of the Working Group on Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, the first meeting of the Expert Group on Space Weather had also highlighted the importance of space weather in relation to space debris and for the accurate prediction of the re-entry trajectories of objects from their space orbits.

13. The Subcommittee noted that in the face of ever-growing understanding of the potential severity, likelihood and impacts of adverse space weather, the Expert Group on Space Weather played an important role in fostering more synergy and in promoting the convergence of common interest among States members of the Committee and related national and international organizations in space weather efforts.

14. At its 822nd meeting on 5 February 2015, the Subcommittee endorsed the mandate and workplan of the Expert Group on Space Weather, which read as follows:

> 1. The mandate of the Expert Group on Space Weather is to promote awareness, provide guidance and enable communication and cooperation in space weather-related activities among States members of the Committee and related national and international organizations.
>
> 2. Under its workplan, the Space Weather Expert Group will:
>
> (a) Examine the report and conclusions of the expert group C on space weather of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, as contained in document A/AC.105/C.1/2014/CRP.15, and other information related to space weather, including the recent report from the

COSPAR-ILWS road map team entitled "Understanding space weather to shield society". The Group will examine the guidelines, recommendations and best practices to identify mechanisms to promote their implementation, including an assessment of prioritization; (Year 1)

(b) Complete an inventory of relevant United Nations organizations, including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO) and others, and those within States members of the Committee and national and international organizations. Identify and assess their role in the global space weather effort, promote coordination and communication between them, and ensure that the efforts of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee are complementary; (Years 1-2)

(c) Recognizing the impacts of space weather, promote increased and expanded involvement by member States in providing space weather monitoring, from the ground and in space, and in developing, advancing and sharing and delivering space weather services; (Years 2-4)

(d) The group will report annually to the Subcommittee on its progress, important issues which have been identified, and where specific action is recommended. The group will also make a recommendation for its continuing and future workplan.

[...]. Near-Earth objects

15. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/85, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered agenda item 11, "Near-Earth objects".

16. The representatives of Egypt, Germany, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States, as well as the representative of Chile, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, made statements under agenda item 11. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States and by the observers for ESA, SGAC and SWF.

17. The Subcommittee heard the following scientific and technical presentations:

(a) "Near-Earth objects 2014", by the representative of the United States;

(b) "Current activities in Russia aimed at addressing near-Earth objects" and "Prospective 'Citadel' international planetary defence system", by the representatives of the Russian Federation;

(c) "Status and activities of newly established groups on near-Earth objects: the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN) and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG)", by the representative of the United States and the observer for ESA;

(d) "NEO event: fireball over Romania", by the representative of Romania;

(e) "The recent status of Hayabusa-2 mission", by the representative of Japan;

(f) "MIRIS: a compact infrared space telescope", by the representative of the Republic of Korea;

(g) "Philae: first landing on a comet", by the representative of Germany.

18. The Subcommittee noted that effective responses for the mitigation of hazard threats from NEOs were best addressed through international cooperation and the coordination of related research and knowledge of best practices. The Subcommittee noted, in particular, international cooperation in the construction of telescopes for observation and the characterization of NEOs, the development of unmanned spacecraft to study NEOs, the advancement in technologies for collection of data on NEOs and the development of NEO observation spacecraft.

19. The Subcommittee also noted the importance of information-sharing in discovering, monitoring and physically characterizing potentially hazardous NEOs to ensure that all nations, in particular developing countries with limited capacity in predicting and mitigating an NEO impact, were aware of potential threats. The Subcommittee also recalled the importance of capacity-building in effective emergency response and disaster management in the event of an NEO impact.

20. The Subcommittee noted that in its resolution 68/75, the General Assembly had welcomed with satisfaction the recommendations for an international response to the NEO impact threat as contained in document A/AC.105/1038, annex III, paragraphs 11-14.

21. The Subcommittee noted that in its resolution 69/85, the General Assembly had recalled the recommendations for an international response to the near-Earth object impact threat, endorsed by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fiftieth session and by the Committee at its fifty-sixth session, and had noted with satisfaction that progress on establishing an international asteroid warning network and a space mission planning advisory group to implement the recommendations for an international response to the near-Earth object impact threat would be reported to the Subcommittee at its fifty-second session.

22. The Subcommittee recalled its earlier agreement that the work of the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN) and of the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG) should be facilitated by the United Nations and noted that the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects, established by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 2001, should assist in the establishment of IAWN and SMPAG and should inform the Subcommittee of the progress in their establishment, and that, once established, IAWN and SMPAG should report on an annual basis on their work.

23. The Subcommittee recalled that the core membership of the ad hoc steering committee of IAWN had been established (A/AC.105/1065, para. 171) at its first meeting, held under the auspices of the Action Team and hosted by the Minor Planet Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States, on 13 and 14 January 2014. At that meeting, members of the ad hoc steering committee recognized that there was a need to invite other relevant organizations to participate in and contribute to IAWN.

24. The Subcommittee noted that the Action Team had met on 11 June 2014, on the margins of the fifty-seventh session of the Committee, to plan future work on the establishment of IAWN and to make preparations for the second meeting of

SMPAG, which was held on 12 and 13 June 2014. The Subcommittee further noted that at the second meeting of SMPAG, among other things, the following had been achieved:

(a) The meeting had finalized the draft terms of reference for SMPAG and agreed on a version considered final;

(b) ESA had been formally and unanimously elected as Chair of SMPAG for the next two years;

(c) The need for transparency and open communication had been emphasized. Consequently, it was decided to accept observers with expertise in fields relevant to the topic of planetary defence at the meetings of SMPAG;

(d) A draft task list of activities had been identified, from which a workplan document would be produced. It had been agreed to assign task leaders to coordinate the task activities and the production of a report. Some members of SMPAG had already volunteered to be task leaders;

(e) It had been agreed that the next SMPAG steering committee meeting would take place on the margins of the fifty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and that the next full meeting of SMPAG would take place in Frascati, Italy, on 9 and 10 April 2015, just before the 2015 Planetary Defense Conference.

25. The Subcommittee noted that as of its fifty-second session, SMPAG had 14 official members, that one space agency had officially requested to join SMPAG and that two other space agencies had indicated their intention to become members. The Subcommittee further noted that to date 10 activities on the task list of SMPAG had been agreed and that for five of those activities lead agencies had been identified to coordinate the work to be done.

26. The Subcommittee was informed that on 9 and 10 September 2014, the Action Team, in collaboration with NASA and SWF, had organized a workshop at Broomfield, Colorado, United States, on communication strategies for IAWN regarding NEO impact hazards. The main findings of the workshop included the following:

(a) The fundamental principles of risk communication are well defined and widely embraced;

(b) Cultivating and maintaining public trust, issuing notifications and warnings in a timely fashion, maintaining transparency in communications, understanding its various audiences and planning for a range of scenarios are important to effectively communicate NEO impact hazards and risks;

(c) IAWN needs to operate as a global, round-the-clock communications network in order to become a trusted and credible source of information;

(d) Employing, in the various IAWN institutions, a common language to communicate about asteroid impact hazards could help IAWN build its identity and credibility. Establishing mechanisms for routine communication could help increase awareness.

27. In view of the above findings, workshop participants formulated recommendations for IAWN, including the following:

(a) IAWN should establish a five-year plan with near- and mid-term actions for becoming the global trusted and credible NEO information, notification and warning network. This plan should consider the fundamental principles of risk communication;

(b) IAWN should sponsor briefings and workshops for news media reporters to improve NEO education in the mass media community.

28. The Subcommittee noted that the steering committee of IAWN held a meeting on 11 November 2014 in conjunction with the forty-sixth annual meeting of the Division of Planetary Sciences of the American Astronomical Society. The Steering Committee heard presentations from multiple NEO characterization projects on their current capabilities and activities. A final draft of the letter of intent for IAWN participation was presented and discussed. Further information can be found at www.minorplanetcenter.net/IAWN.

29. The Subcommittee noted that the Action Team had successfully carried out its work to establish IAWN and SMPAG and considered its assigned tasks completed. As IAWN and SMPAG would provide annual progress reports to the Subcommittee on the preparation of an international response to the near-Earth object impact threat, the Action Team had recommended that it should be dissolved.

30. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation the work of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects and commended its achievements in coordinating international NEO hazard threat mitigation efforts, in particular through its work to establish IAWN and SMPAG. The Subcommittee also thanked the Chair of the Action Team, Sergio Camacho (Mexico), for his dedicated work.

31. The Subcommittee noted that the Action Team had recommended that in 2016 IAWN should hold a meeting as an open forum to discuss its workplan and other NEO-related activities. That meeting could be held on the margins of the fifty-third session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in order to enable the participation of interested delegations.

32. The Subcommittee noted that the Action Team further recommended that IAWN and SMPAG should seek permanent observer status with the Committee.

33. The Subcommittee noted that the Action Team had identified that additional work would be required regarding the decision-making and implementation framework necessary for the development of the international community's capabilities for dealing with NEO threats. That work should also take account of the need for establishing an institutional and juridical framework for decisions regarding NEO defence operations and the related responsibilities.

34. The Subcommittee was also informed that on 5 and 6 February 2015, in collaboration with the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects, the first meeting of the SMPAG steering committee took place on the margins of the Subcommittee's session. Representatives of the following entities participated: Agenzia Spaziale Italiana, Centre national d'études spatiales of France, the German Aerospace Center (DLR), European Space Agency, IAWN, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, Israel Space Agency, NASA of the United States, Romanian Space Agency, Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission of Pakistan and UK Space Agency. In addition, representatives of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects and the Office for Outer Space Affairs and Austria, Canada, India and Oman were present.

35. The Subcommittee was informed that the application of the Israel Space Agency for participation in SMPAG had been formally accepted at the meeting.

36. The Subcommittee was informed of the following information resulting from that meeting:

(a) The SMPAG steering committee agreed on a first official version of the terms of reference of SMPAG;

(b) Discussions were held on the criteria to be used for participation in the SMPAG steering committee and plenary meetings. As to the status of observers, it was agreed that they may be invited to meetings pending their prior application and acceptance by the chair of the meeting;

(c) Delegations agreed to formally invite the Office for Outer Space Affairs to attend SMPAG meetings as an observer;

(d) It was agreed that the SMPAG steering committee would meet twice per year;

(e) Discussions were held on the general structure and specific work activities of the SMPAG workplan, including the schedule;

(f) It was agreed that the SMPAG workplan should be a living document including completed, ongoing and planned activities.

[...]. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

37. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/85, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 13, "Long-term sustainability of outer space activities", under the workplan contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-second session[1] and as extended by the Committee at its fifty-seventh session.[2]

38. The representatives of Belarus, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, the United States, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), as well as the representative of Chile, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, made statements under agenda item 13. The observer for the Secure World Foundation also made a statement. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States.

39. The Subcommittee heard the following scientific and technical presentations:

(a) "The Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee (COMSTAC) model: leveraging private sector input for public-sector regulations", by the representative of the United States;

(b) "Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum in 2014 (APRSAF-21)", by the representative of Japan;

[1] A/64/20, para. 161.
[2] A/69/20, para. 199.

(c) "Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum", by the representative of Australia;

(d) "Risk to aircraft from space vehicle debris", by the observers for the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety (IAASS);

(e) "Lessons learned from space failures", by the observers for IAASS.

40. The Subcommittee had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat containing an updated set of draft guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (A/AC.105/C.1/L.340);

(b) Working paper by the Chair of the Working Group containing a draft report of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (A/AC.105/C.1/L.343);

(c) Conference room paper containing a proposal by the United States for an additional guideline (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.10);

(d) Conference room paper containing comments and proposed amendments by Germany on the updated set of draft guidelines (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.11);

(e) Conference room paper containing a proposal by Belgium for additional text to be inserted in the updated set of draft guidelines (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.12);

(f) Conference room paper submitted by Brazil containing comments and a proposal for an additional guideline (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.19);

(g) Conference room paper submitted by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States containing comments and proposed amendments to the updated set of draft guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.19/Rev.1);

(h) Conference room paper submitted by the Russian Federation containing an analysis and proposals for an additional guideline on the achievement of a uniform interpretation of the right of self-defence in conformity with the United Nations Charter as applied to outer space as a factor in maintaining outer space a safe and conflict-free environment and promoting the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.22);

(i) Conference room paper submitted by the Russian Federation containing an analysis and proposals for an additional guideline on considerations regarding the modalities of consolidating the understanding on issues pertaining to the enhancement of the practice in registering space objects in view of the necessity of ensuring the safety of space operations (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.23);

(j) Conference room paper submitted by the Russian Federation containing an analysis and proposals for six additional guidelines on additional considerations and proposals aimed at building up understanding of the priority aspects, comprehensive meaning and the functions of the concept and practices of ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.24);

(k) Conference room paper submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran containing a proposed amendment to the proposal for the consolidation of the set of draft guidelines on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.25);

(l) Conference room paper by France containing comments and proposed amendments to the updated set of draft guidelines (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.28);

(m) Conference room paper submitted by the Russian Federation containing a proposal on the review and consideration of the concept of a United Nations information platform serving common needs in collecting and sharing information on near-Earth space monitoring in the interests of safety of space operations, and its architectural and programmatic aspects (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.32);

(n) Conference room paper submitted by the Russian Federation containing comments on the identification of cross-links between the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities and the topic of developing guidelines on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.33).

41. The Subcommittee also had before it a note by the Secretariat entitled "Recommendations of the group of governmental experts on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities: views of States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" (A/AC.105/1080).

42. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/85, the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities was reconvened under the chairmanship of Peter Martinez (South Africa).

43. The Subcommittee welcomed the progress made since its last session by the Working Group, in accordance with the terms of reference and methods of work of the Working Group.

44. The view was expressed that there was insufficient participation of developing countries in the work of the Working Group and its expert groups, and that their participation should be actively encouraged.

45. Some delegations stressed the importance of accomplishing the work of the Working Group within the time frame outlined in the revised workplan.

46. The view was expressed that haste to finalize the set of guidelines should not compromise careful and necessary consideration of the relevant topics.

47. Some delegations expressed the view that it was important to continue to consider common elements in the work in the Working Group and the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/68/189).

48. The view was expressed that transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities were indispensable for maintaining the long-term sustainability of the peaceful uses of outer space.

49. The view was expressed that the guidelines on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities would form part of a broader context of measures aimed at fostering the sustainable use of outer space, and that they were intended to support and complement guidance available in existing treaties, principles, guidelines and recommendations.

50. The view was expressed that the United Nations was the only appropriate setting for the creation of guidelines and codes on the long-term sustainability of outer space affairs.

51. Some delegations expressed the view that the draft guidelines should take into consideration the needs of developing countries and not limit their access to outer space.

52. Some delegations expressed the view that the guidelines should take into account the principle of the non-placement of weapons in the space environment.

53. The view was expressed that the draft guidelines should be consistent with international law, including the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and that the overregulation of space activities would be undesirable.

54. The view was expressed that the guidelines must acknowledge that the preservation of outer space for the common good of all humankind should be mandatory and that the sustainability of outer space could not be subordinate to internal considerations of States.

55. Some delegations expressed the view that new guidelines should not create new costs or impose technical barriers for developing countries whose activities had little or no impact on the sustainability of space activities.

56. The view was expressed that the guidelines should include practical measures that can be implemented by space-faring nations.

57. The view was expressed that the guidelines should be forward-looking and encourage the use of new techniques and solutions to address challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space affairs.

58. The view was expressed that the guidelines should focus on measures that already exist, and that technical solutions that have yet to reach maturity should be treated as topics for further discussions among experts.

59. Some delegations expressed the view that the ordering and grouping of the draft set of guidelines should be revised.

60. The view was expressed that the draft guidelines should be streamlined.

61. The view was expressed that it was important to reach a common understanding of which provisions of document A/AC.105/C.1/L.340 would constitute guidelines.

62. Some delegations expressed the view that the interrelationship between some of the draft guidelines and existing legal obligations required further clarification.

63. The view was expressed that it was necessary to continue to develop consensus on definitions and translations for the terms used in the guidelines.

64. The view was expressed that, in line with international law, the guidelines should use the term "non-governmental entities" rather than "private entities".

65. Some delegations expressed the view that additional guidelines should be added to the updated set of draft guidelines presented in A/AC.105/C.1/L.340.

66. The view was expressed that the guidelines should address the security of critical infrastructure for space activities.

67. The view was expressed that the draft guidelines should be supplemented with an additional guideline that would encourage States to commit, in their national legal frameworks, to conducting solely activities of a peaceful nature in the outer space environment and, in so doing, to bear in mind the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities.

68. The view was expressed that a centre for information on near-Earth space monitoring should be established under the auspices of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as a universal tool for information exchange and for the collection and dissemination of information on objects and events in near-Earth space. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that member States could initiate informal consultations that would enable them to take a decision in that regard at the forthcoming session of the Committee, in June 2015, and that the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs was necessary.

69. The view was expressed that a database of space objects should be made available to all countries, for the safety, security and sustainability of space operations.

70. The view was expressed that space debris had been created through past space operations by countries with advanced space capabilities, and that those States should help new entrants in space activities to mitigate space debris by providing scientific, technological and financial support, in the interest of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

71. The view was expressed that legal issues on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities should be discussed in the Legal Subcommittee.

72. The view was expressed that a new agenda item on the legitimate use of force in space should be established.

73. The Subcommittee recalled the agreement of the Committee on the Peaceful uses of Outer Space at its fifty-seventh session that States members of the Committee should be invited to submit their views on the modalities of making practical use of the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts, as they related to and/or could prove instrumental in ensuring the safety of space operations, and in the context of the ongoing work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (A/69/20, para. 374). The Subcommittee welcomed the contributions contained in document A/AC.105/1080, and encouraged other member States to submit their contributions before the fifty-eighth session of the Committee.

74. The Subcommittee noted that the General Assembly, in paragraph 6 of its resolution 69/38, had decided to convene, within existing resources, a joint ad hoc meeting of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) to address possible challenges to space security and sustainability, and to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", a sub-item entitled "Joint ad hoc meeting of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to space security and sustainability".

75. The Subcommittee requested the Secretariat to report to the Committee at its fifty-eighth session on the preparations for that joint ad hoc meeting and to inform the Committee on the planned format, agenda and procedures for the meeting, as well as on the expected outcome of the meeting and any budget implications.

76. At its [...] meeting, on [...] February, the Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, which is contained in annex [...] to the present report.